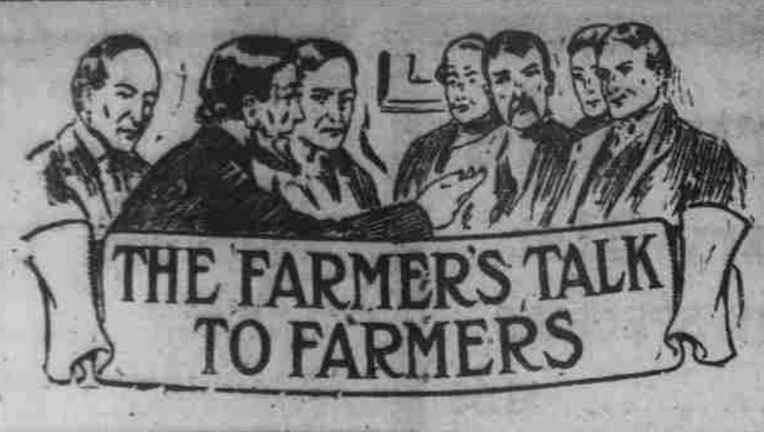


AN EIGHT HOUR DAY FOR FARM WORK.

(Written Specially for The Bulletin)

Can farm-work be done on the basis of an eight-hour day? That question is being much talked and written about, of late.

The majority opinion seems clearly to be that it cannot. That is the sentiment of practical farmers and of theoretical professors of agriculture, or, at least, of most such who take the trouble to write or talk about it. Some don't even bother to discuss it all. They dismiss the merest suggestion of the idea with a snort of disgust at the incredible folly of anyone who offers it.

I am not going to expose my defenseless old head to the bludgeonings of their ridicule by offering any argument about it. My present contribution to the gayety of nations is intended only to put into the record one trifling fact; to wit, namely, that is to say:

It has been done.—In some cases.

I don't pretend to assert that it was either wise or unwise in those particular cases. I don't pretend to tell whether, wisely or unwisely, it could be done in other cases. I content myself solely with the statement of the fact that it has been done.

I will admit, right at the outset, that I don't see how dairy cows, which should be milked about every twelve hours, can be fitted into an eight-hour day's work. Unless the farmer gets enough more money for his milk to permit the employment of two eight-hour shifts of help. If the wives of the gentlemen engaged in city shops and factories at eight-hour labor are anxious to pay that increase, in order to put other women's husbands on a par with their own, they haven't yet indicated it!

In fact, I don't feel authorized or competent to express any definite opinion as to its practicability for any particular farmer on any particular farm. Circumstances alter cases. What might be reckoned feasible, or even wise on Hardscrabble Hill, might very well be disastrous folly on Podunk Flats.

But .... it doesn't seem to me quite sensible to dismiss as a necessarily absurd impossibility what has, in some cases, become an accomplished fact.

For instance, take a truck-gardener of my acquaintance. His work is almost wholly confined to ten acres of gardens. He employes one man regularly, by the season, and hires occasional extra help by the day, when exigencies arise. For twenty years the day of all hired help on this garden-farm has been an eight-hour day. There are reasons.

In the first place, some garden crops cannot be worked when the dew is on. Beans, for one. Others, which cannot be worked without imminent danger of causing rust, are, nevertheless, more apt to be injured than aided by cultivation when their foliage is soaked and soggy and easily torn or bruised. Moreover, garden soil itself is not generally fit to be touched by tools except when it is dry. Experience has shown this gardener that any ordinary workman, tackling a garden bed while it is dew-drenched, is apt to do vastly more hurt than good. Therefore he asks his helper not to appear till eight o'clock. Even at that hour things are usually too wet. It is rare that they venture out with hoes or weeders or cultivators before nine o'clock. The interval is occupied in getting things ready, making small repairs, doing various odd jobs.

And the work-day ends at five o'clock, because the hired man has his own kitchen garden to attend to, his own home "chores" to do, and his employer feels that he also has a right to some little time for rest or play.

There are times, of course, when special emergencies call for an extension of this day. When a spell of rainy weather has delayed essential work, the loss has to be caught up and made good by working overtime. Sometimes, when plants have to be set during a dry spell, both employer and employe work evenings till it is too dark to see, in order to let the tender transplants have a whole cool, damp night to recuperate in from the shock of the operation. But, in all such cases, the overtime is kept track of and the employe is either given an equal time for himself, or paid extra, at his own option. In either case, he is also made to understand that his extra work is appreciated as a neighborly accomodation.

This covers the hired man's case. Whether it covers the owner's I am not so sure. It is my impression that the gardener himself works nearer sixteen than eight hours on that same job. For, after the regular day is over, he has his own "chores" to do. And numberless little things have to be looked after and looked over; numberless little errands done; numberless little jobs tidied up; plans for next day's work laid out, etc. Also, before the regular day's work begins, he has those same "chores" to attend to, every morning.

In my own case, it happens that I have to hire my haying done. When the grass is ready to cut, I usually have too many other things demanding instant attention. For several years past, I have noted that the men and teams whom I hire to do the haying never reach my farm before 8 a. m. And, unless they have a load actually on the rigging, they knock off at 5 p. m. One day last summer, I chanced to be in the hay-field at five o'clock. One team had just finished taking on a load. The other drove into the meadow, empty, having just pitched one off into the bay. The five o'clock whistle blew. The driver of the loaded team sang out: "Well, shall we unload this tonight?" One helper said he guessed it would be easier then than in the mornin'. The other said he for one, was goin' home. He climbed on the empty rigging of the second team, whose driver promptly swung around, drove out through the bars and disappeared. The other man and the driver took their load to the barn, pitched it off,—the whole operation taking only ten minutes, backed out and started after the first with the tired horses on a trot, so as to catch up with them before they should get to their own barn.

Later, I found that my bill charged me with that extra ten minutes as "overtime." And the driver, who hired that helper by the day, told me, in explanation, that he had to pay the helper for it. Also, that he couldn't get a man, for love or money, to work after five o'clock, whether in the hayfield or not, without agreeing, beforehand, to pay him extra if continuance of work after that was called for.

Considering all the circumstances, I thought this was cutting things pretty fine. But I had had a dusty job finding anybody who would do my haying under any conditions, and, on the whole, felt myself lucky in getting the crop in, after any fashion.

And I will say this for those fellows, in simple justice: they did work, while they worked. I think they barned the hay as quickly and in as good shape as when we all put in from 4 a. m. to 8 p. m. in handling it.

Near me is a large farm, the largest anywhere in my neighborhood, where all the farmwork is done by hired help. Everything on it is governed by clock and bell. Its regular work day is from 7 a. m. to 6 p. m. with an hour off at noon. This counts as a ten-hour day, by the clock. In fact, the men, who are supposed to appear at the barns at 7 a. m. never get to the fields before 8 o'clock; they take nearer two hours than one for their noonings; and they plan to be back, teams unhitched and fed, by 6. This requires them to knock off real work about 5. So, you see, they really work only a scant eight hours.

It goes without saying that, in this case, too, somebody has to be on hand earlier in the morning to feed the stock, and later at night to finish things up. While the regular field hands have practically an eight-hour day, somebody else has to work twelve hours or more.

This, however, is not unusual in other industries than farming. In those mechanical establishments which have adopted the eight-hour day for hired labor, it is usually the fact that the managers and superintendents and responsible heads work a good deal more than that limit.

I once knew, somewhat intimately, a large employer of labor. I don't happen to remember what the fixed hours for work were in his establishment, but I do know that he worked longer hours than any man in it. He was always at his place before the first workman arrived in the morning, stayed at it till the last one had left at closing, and usually carried home with him enough extra work to keep his study lamp burning late into the night.

I think it must be admitted that there is work on the farm — and in most other industries, as well, which simply cannot be done in an eight-hour day. Somebody, somewhere, has got to put in more time than that to keep things moving satisfactorily.

Incidentally, it may be noted that the men who are willing to give extra time and do extra work, for the securing of results, are usually those who rise. If a man doesn't ever expect to be anything else than be a hired hand for someone else, I don't know that I blame him for sticking out for all the time he can save.

That, unfortunately, seems to be the attitude of a great many workers.

If, on the other hand, he hopes sometime to lift himself out of that bunch, he isn't apt to be such a stickler for short hours.

Some wise guy once wrote this suggestive aphorism:

"The man who never does any more than he gets paid for, never gets paid for any more than he does."

As a matter of fact, with real men, the question of how long they shall work each day is one of minor importance or interest. Such men are more solicitous about what results they shall accomplish than about how many hours they shall put in accomplishing them.

They say that Edison works eighteen and twenty hours a day, sometimes for weeks at a stretch, when he trying to attain some important result. He simply can't rest till he has done the job and done it to the queen's taste, too.

We can't all be Edisons. True, but that isn't the point. Edison himself would never have been the Edison we know of, if he had started out with the determination to work only on the eight-hour basis.

In this life, it isn't the number of steps one takes in getting anywhere which deeply interests the world.

It is the getting there which counts.

Inasmuch, however, as a very large number of workmen don't seem to care for such considerations; can't seem to think beyond the bread and butter and pie of today; don't expect or hope to rise out of the ranks, we must take them as we find them, and do the best we can with them and for them.

If they want an eight-hour day in farm work, it is quite possible that, in some cases, anyway, their demand can be gratified.

It won't do us any hurt to look the situation over, and see what our own particular work will permit. Perhaps one farmer may find employment conditions feasible which would be disastrously impossible for another. The wise thing is to approach the problem with an open mind, and the candid admission that not all people can be expected to act or think alike.

THE FARMER.

Catarrh Of The Stomach Is Dangerous

"Thousands Have It and Don't Know It," Says Physician. Frequently Mistaken for Indigestion —How to Recognize and Treat.

"Thousands of people suffer more or less constantly from furred, coated tongue, bad breath, sour, burning stomach, frequent vomiting, rumbling in stomach, bitter eructations, gas, wind and stomach acidity and call it indigestion, when in reality their trouble is due to gastric catarrh of the stomach," writes a New York physician.

Catarrh of the stomach is dangerous because the mucous membrane lining of the stomach is thickened and a coating of phlegm covers the surface so that the digestive fluids cannot mix with the food and digest them. This condition soon breeds deadly disease in the fermented, unassimilated food. The blood is polluted and carries the infection throughout the body. Gastric ulcers are apt to form and frequently an ulcer is the first sign of a deadly cancer.

In catarrh of the stomach a good and safe treatment is to take before meals a teaspoonful of pure Bisurated Magnesia in half a glass of hot water as hot as you can comfortably drink it. The hot water washes the mucous from the stomach walls and draws the blood to the stomach while the bisurated magnesia is an excellent solvent for mucous and increases the efficiency of the hot water treatment. Moreover, the Bisurated Magnesia will serve as a powerful but harmless antacid which will neutralize any excess hydrochloric acid that may be in your stomach and sweeten its food contents. Easy, natural digestion without distress of any kind should soon follow. Bisurated Magnesia is not a laxative, is harmless, pleasant and easy to take, and can be obtained from any local druggist. Don't confuse Bisurated Magnesia with other forms of magnesia, milks, citrates, etc., but get it in the pure bisurated form (powder or tablets) especially prepared for this purpose.

ENDING TOMORROW

January Clearance Sale Overcoats and Suits

$30.00 $35.00, $38.00 Suits and O'coats	$40.00, $45.00, $50.00 Suits and O'coats	$55.00, $60.00, $65.00 Suits and O'coats
$24.50	$34.50	$44.50

Seize This Last Opportunity!

To Buy Kuppenheimer—Clothcraft—Society Brand and Other Well Known Makes of Men's and Young Men's Clothing at These Drastic Price Reductions.

OVERCOATS Next Winter Will Cost Fully Double Present Prices

SUITS For Spring Are Just 50 Per Cent. Higher

We know this information to be absolutely reliable — we wish it were not — but why not save while there is still time.

SALE POSITIVELY ENDS TOMORROW.

The Manhattan

121-125 MAIN STREET

FORTUNE IN OLD CLOTHES CHEST

"DIAMOND DYES" TURN OLD, FADED, SHABBY APPAREL INTO NEW

Don't worry about perfect results. Use "Diamond Dyes," guaranteed to give a new, rich, fadeless color to any fabric, whether it be wool, silk, linen, cotton or mixed goods,—dresses, blouses, stockings, skirts, children's coats, feathers, draperies, coverings.

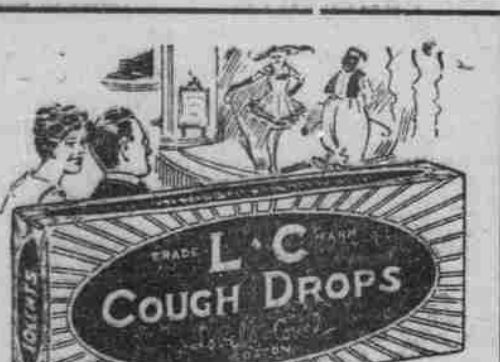
The Direction Book with each package tells so plainly how to diamond dye over any color that you can not make a mistake.

To match any material, have druggist show you "Diamond Dye" Color Card.

THROAT IRRITATIONS AT THE THEATRE

L. C. COUGH DROPS

stop the throat irritations—soothes the membrane and prevents annoying others. Eminent physicians pronounce L. C. Cough Drops a perfect remedy for throat irritations.



NORWICH TOWN

Rev. W. D. Francis and choir of McKinley Avenue, A. M. E. Zion church, will have charge of the Sunday afternoon services at the Shelterings Arms.

The Home Missionary society of the First Congregational church will meet this (Friday) afternoon in the chapel to sew, preceding the second in a series of society teas.

Miss Pauline Christie returned to Groton Monday morning, after a few days' visit at the home of Miss Marion Rogers of upper Washington street.

After a stay of eight weeks at the home of her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Davis, of Washington street; Mrs. Mary Eaton left Wednesday to visit for a week with relatives in New London before returning to her home in East Lyme.

Burton J. Robbins, and Mrs. Allen Kinney, of Providence, R. I., are passing several days at the home of their brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. David M. Dean, of Town street; being called here the early part of the week, owing to the serious illness of their mother, Mrs. Mary Robbins.

Wednesday evening, twenty members of the Neighborhood Whist club were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin C. Gay, at their home on upper Washington street; Owing to so much sickness about twelve members were absent from this meeting. There were five tables played. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kelley won first prizes respectively, and the consolation awards went to Miss Mary Donohue and Ralph Marsh. Mrs. Gay was assisted by Mrs. Charles Marsh and Mrs. Frank Sterry, in serving sandwiches, cake and coffee.

Dr. and Mrs. Arnaud J. LaPierre and daughters, Fanny and Charlotte, of Elm avenue, and Dr. LaPierre's mother, Mrs. Henry LaPierre, of upper Washington street, with Mr. and Mrs. Sidney P. Smith, and daughter, Eleanor, of 274 Washington street, left on Wednesday morning for New York, en route to Florida, where they will be guests of Mr. Smith's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Owen S. Smith, at their winter home in Eustis.

Following an illness of a few days with pneumonia, Mary R., widow of Reuben N. Robbins, died in the home of her son-in-law, David M. Dean, of 16 Town street, Wednesday morning. Mrs. Robbins was born in Peru, Mass., March 28th, 1843. She was united in marriage with Reuben H. Robbins, in South Wilbraham, Mass., Sept. 7th, 1864. She was a past chaplain of Sedgwick Woman's Relief corps, and was deeply interested in the order, having joined soon after locating in Norwich Town, where she had resided for the past thirty-five years. She was a kind and loving mother and her jovial disposition made staunch friends wherevere she has lived. She is survived by three children, Mrs. David M. Dean, of Town street, Mrs. Allen Kinney and Burton J. Robbins of Providence, R. I., also a grandson, Burton J. Robbins, Jr.

Richard Carter of Sturtevant street, was taken Wednesday to the Backus hospital where an operation was performed on his foot which received serious injury a month ago in the Glen Woolen Mills, it being necessary to amputate some of the toes. Thursday evening Mr. Carter was reported to be resting comfortably.

PLAINFIELD

At the monthly meeting of the Men's club of Plainfield Monday evening in St. Paul's hall, Rev. Mr. Jepson of Danielson has been secured as speaker and the club has arranged to have a supper and social. The club is non sectarian and open to all men of Plainfield. It is organized for the purpose of promoting a feeling of friendship and good fellowship and to get better acquainted for the better interests of the town of Plainfield.

Tonight, Collins' Singing orchestra of Marlboro, Firemen's ball, Jewett City. Dancing until 4 a. m.—adv.

The Children of Mary Society had their weekly whist party Wednesday evening at the Holy Name Club room. A large crowd attended. The prize winners were: Misses Rose Brodeau, first; Corinne Gileau, second. All enjoyed the evening.

A bowling match was held between the overseers and the High Bowlers Tuesday evening. The Overseers were defeated two out of three. Another game is to be played next week between the two teams.

A crowd of young ladies had a sleighing party Tuesday evening, going to Danielson. The party was made up of the girls of No. 1 card room.

Announcement is made of the establishment of a system of honors in Plainfield High school effective from January 5, 1920. Pupils who maintain an average of 90 per cent. or better in all subjects, including deportment and effort will each month be noted as receiving highest honors. Pupils who maintain an average of from 80 per cent. to 90 per cent and whose deportment and effort are satisfactory to the faculty will be noted as receiving general honors. To insure promotion an average of 70 per cent must be maintained at all times. The following pupils are cited for honors for January: Highest Honors —Mollie Frederica Baxter, class of 1922; Louisa Laura Annie Maggia, 1922; Cora Ellen Belknap, 1923. General Honors—Mary Eleanor Egan, class of 1921; Dorothy Evelyn Knight, 1921; Robert Francis Sherman, 1921; Winogene Lucy Pratt, 1922; George Maurice Torrey, 1922; Lauretta Broduer, 1922; Ruth Vera Davis, 1922.

JEWETT CITY

A canvass among the fraternal orders of the town shows the fact that never before in the history of any one of them has there been as many taking the degrees or waiting as uninitiated candidates. The Knights of Columbus, Masons, Odd Fellows and Pythians, the four leading orders of the town, have in the total thirty men waiting to become members.

Miracle Man, Ashland theatre, Monday, 2.30, 6.45, 8.30.—adv.

The book club conducted by Miss S. K. Adams, starts this week, as follows: E. B. Cheney, The Girl in the Mirror; W. S. Rood, Smiles; E. F. Burleson, Love Stories; L. G. Buckingham, A Chance to Live; G. C. Hull, The Greater Glory; S. K. Adams, The Forbidden Trail; C. E. Spicer, A Woman Named Smith; C. Anderson, Dangerous Days; A. M. Anthony, The Recreation of Brian Kent; W. Richardson, Lad; a Dog; E. H. Hiscox, Yellowleaf; A. A. Brown, The Arrow of Gold; E. Jodoin, The Lamp in the Desert; A. A. Young, The Branding Iron; G. H. Prior, The Harbor Road; F. E. Robinson, Sherry; Fred N. Robinson, The River's End; H. A. Dawley, Sir Harry; S. N. Johnson, The Sky Pilot of No Man's Land; L. V. Whitford, The Desert of Wheat; Lottie Pace, Rainbow Valley; G. W. Robinson, The Search; F. L. Kanahan, Red and Black; C. Mackay, Helena; P. Geist, The Disturbing Charm; C. D. Wolf, The Vinegar Saint.

Tonight, Collins' Singing Orchestra, of Marlboro, Fireman's ball. Buffet lunch.—adv.

Health Officer G. H. Jennings reported five new cases of influenza on Thursday, a total of 20 to date.

One man in every three was rejected by drafts boards for physical disability. According to the United States Public Health Service, a great many of these defects might have been eliminated and probably will be in the next generation.

Keeping Well

Simple Sanitary Precautions For Before and After

We all of us fear the flu. We dread the grippe. We detest the winter colds which are so prevalent. We want to avoid all this. It can be done. Eat simple nourishing foods—sleep at least eight hours every night with all the fresh air you can get—keep clean both inside and out. There are a number of very simple preparations which may be used as preventives or for treatment of trouble after it arrives and there are a number of splendid antiseptics which might be used with propriety at all times in every home.

WE HAVE THESE AND AT THE LOWEST PRICES

LYSOL		LISTERINE	
Small size	23c	Small size	23c
Medium size	45c	Medium size	40c
Large size	87c	Large size	69c

SYLPHO NATHOL		Peroxide of Hydrogen	
Small size	10c	Small size	10c
Medium size	24c	Medium size	15c
Large size	46c	Large size	25c
Extra large	90c		

DIOXOGEN		GLYCO THYMOLINE	
Small size	19c	Small size	24c
Medium size	29c	Medium size	48c
Large size	39c	Large size	97c

LAVORIS	
Small size	24c
Medium size	45c
Large size	90c

EGYPTIAN DEODORIZER 19c PACKAGE

The Boston Store
The Reid & Hughes Co.

Yellow Mustard For Rheumatism

A good hot mustard plaster or poultice is pretty sure to overcome most rheumatic pains and even sciatica and gout but it's a mussy affair and generally blisters.

Heat is absolutely necessary if you want permanent relief. Begy's Mustarine, made of true yellow mustard with other pain relieving ingredients added is just as hot, is cheaper, cleaner and more effective than the old fashioned poultice or plaster and cannot blister.

Besides rheumatic pains and swellings Begy's Mustarine is speedily effective for lumbago, backache, neuritis, pleurisy, bronchitis, sore throat, chest colds and all aches and pains because heat eases pain—30 and 60 cents at druggists or by mail, S. C. Wells & Co., LeRoy, N. Y.

BEGY'S MUSTARINE

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For Infants and Children

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Always bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher

NAME "BAYER" ON GENUINE ASPIRIN

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BAYER

The "Bayer Cross" placed on tablets means you are getting true "Bayer Tablets of Aspirin" proved safe by millions of people—the genuine Aspirin prescribed by physicians for over eighteen years.

In every handy "Bayer" package are proper directions for Colds, Headache, Toothache, Earache, Neuralgia, Rheumatism, Lumbago, Sciatica, Neuritis and for Pain generally.

Tin boxes of 12 tablets cost only a few cents. Druggists also sell larger "Bayer" packages. Aspirin is the trade mark of Bayer Manufacture of Monoaceticacidester of Salicylicacid.

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